

MEDICAL MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TASK FORCE

MEETING SUMMARY FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004

EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5TH FLOOR 1010 SECOND AVENUE

For Information contact Ed Plank (236-6433).

Attendees:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: Chair: Jerry Meier, Michael Bartelmo, Mike Barbee, Conley Major, Ann Shanahan-Walsh.

Staff present were Lisa Foster, Staajabu Heshimu, Ed Plank and Lt. Cesar Solis.

1. Report from the Chair on Report to City Council

Jerry Meier discussed the draft Status Report to Council. Timing - was noted that report was to be submitted to PS&NS 6 months from when the guidelines were approved at Council in late September (making submission to PS&NS due in March). Comments from Task Force members included:

- - request to add brief background to provide context for the report
- - regarding fund raising for the Card Program, include clarification that 2 donors of significant contributions had been identified but that commitments had been rescinded since SB420 defines State/County responsibility for program implementation
- - include recommendation in the report for the City Council to formally encourage the State to take action so the program is implemented as soon as possible
- -report should note there will be a need to reconcile the City's Ordinance with the State law once State and County guidelines are issued. Lisa Foster noted there is a severability provision of the Municipal Code which facilitates removal of portions of the Code found to be in conflict with State law
- - desire to have Council evaluate the status and future for the Task Force....it was discussed that once clarification was received from the Attorney General and the State regarding their intended course of action, the Task Force would report back to Council with recommendations on any future Task Force role
- - was suggested that the Police Department provide language for inclusion in the report that would summarize their approach to medical cannabis interactions to reassure the public and Council

Motion by Conley to accept the report with these additions:

1. attach Chair letter to Dr. Brown with the County Health Department
2. include language that major donors had been identified
3. ask Council to formally encourage State action to implement SB420
4. indicate that City Ordinance will need to be revised given SB420 and the State guidelines and protocols that will eventually be issued
5. include Police Department Language on handling of Medical Cannabis interactions

Motion carried 4-1

Attorney General Request

Lisa Foster gave overview of the draft letter to Assembly Woman Kehoe which requests legal clarification of the points raised by the Task Force with respect to State intentions and a City's ability to pursue an interim program, or serve as a program provider in the future. The letter provided some background on the need to request the opinions via the Assembly Office.

Task Force questions to the State Department of Health regarding plans and schedule for program development to be addressed separately.

Motion to accept the draft letter contingent upon the review and approval of Dale Kelly Bankhead and Juliana Humphrey.

Motion carried 5-0

Chair to draft letter to Assembly Woman Kehoe asking for response from Dept of Health on implementation plan and schedule for SB420.

Website Update

Ed Plank provided a draft website update document and described overview of the plan to restructure to facilitate use by patients, physicians, general interest users, etc. Task force requested to provide input on draft, and for Ed to set up another meeting to discuss feedback and finalize the redesign.

Task Force Schedule

The Task Force discussed the need for monthly meetings and a motion was adopted to keep the March meeting on the schedule, but to switch to an ad hoc meeting schedule thereafter, depending on the need for the Task Force to convene.

Public Comment

- Comment that a passenger declared medical cannabis possession at the Airport, but was cited and needs to go to court, hearing date scheduled for March 3rd
- Comment expressing disappointment at the turnaround time for questions to the Attorney General
- Concern over how the report to City Council is being reviewed and finalized by the Task Force
- Comment on Prop S in San Francisco calling for City to take proactive steps to support patient cultivation and cooperatives
- Comment on additional research documenting the effectiveness of cannabis, also cited research observations that drivers who are under the influence of cannabis have lower accident rates
- Comment from patient who voiced frustration over the lack of availability of cannabis for medicinal use